



# THE WONDER LIST

TREES

Playful prompts and activities that turn everyday moments into wonder-filled discoveries—for families, anywhere, every day.



## EXPLORING NOTE:

Look with eyes and hands, but don't peel bark or break living branches. Ask permission before collecting leaves or seeds and avoid touching dangerous plants like poison ivy. (Leaves of three, let it be!)



Mark with an X when completed

### 1 SMELL SLEUTH

When you smell freshly cut grass or a torn leaf, you're smelling a message from the plant! For example, the smell of cut grass is a gaseous chemical signal to other plants that **the grass is under attack**. Snap a twig or tear a leaf. Describe what it smells like.



### 2 TRUNK DETECTIVE

**Tree rings can tell us how old a tree is** and give us a record of an area's climate history. If you come across a stump or cut log, count tree rings to determine the plant's age, and then look for skinny versus wide bands. Narrow bands reveal slower growth years, possibly due to droughts or unseasonable cold.



### 3 LEAF LOOKER

Many trees can be identified **by the shape of their leaves**. Gather three fallen leaves of different colors or shapes and arrange them from "smoothest edges" to "most jagged."



### 4 TREE TALKER

Stand under a tree **and listen for 30 seconds**. How many different sounds does it make—rustling, creaking, tapping?



### 5 BRANCH OUT

Available sun, space, and age **can affect how tree branches grow outward**. Spot five different trees. Look at how their branches grow: Are they straight out, upward like arms, or drooping down? Try copying the tree's shape with your own body.

